

*J. J. J.*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: BRANAGAN

Serial No. 10/816,094

Filed: APRIL 1, 2004

For: CONTROLLED THERMAL EXPANSION OF WELDS TO  
ENHANCE TOUGHNESS

Group: 1762

Examiner: KATHERINE BAREFORD DOCKET: NANO003U

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Official Action mailed April 12, 2006.. By this Official Action claims 1-16 and 17 are pending and stand subject to a restriction/election requirement.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-16, drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 446.
- II. Claim 17, drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 426.
  - a. Species A. The different alloys in claims 7-9.
  - b. Species B. The different methods of application in claims 10-11.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-6 and 1-16 were generic. This was not fully understood as claims 1-6 may be found in claims 1-16. In any event, Applicant will respond herein and to the extent that the Applicant has misunderstood the

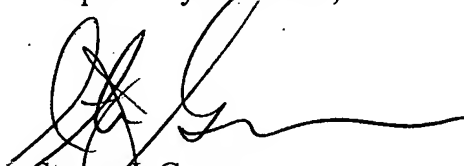
Examiner's intentions regarding what was considered generic, Applicant is provided with an opportunity to again respond.

Applicant herein elects Group I, claims 1-16. In addition, Applicant elects claim 7 of species (a) and claim 10 of species (b). It is believed that with respect to such election, claim 1-7, 10, and 12-16 are readable thereon and are in condition for examination on the merits. In addition, it is believed that claims 1, 14, 15 and 16 are generic. Accordingly, it is understood that claims 8-9 and 11 will be withdrawn from consideration, and that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of reintroducing said claims in an appropriate Amendment.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact in this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 603-668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or fees are payable, please charge them to our deposit account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Grossman  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 35,001

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 4/24/06, at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By 